GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008
MINERAL EXPLORATION WITH FOREIGN AGENCY
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment in exploration/extraction of minerals;

(b) the details of mines where mineral exploration has been started in collaboration with foreign agencies, country-wise; and

(c) the specific mineral exploration activities undertaken in the country during each of the last three years, till date State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES(SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) The National Mineral policy, 1993 for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals, has thrown open the mining sector for private investment including foreign direct investment (FDI). The above policy envisages, inter-alia, foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals. FDI upto 100% is now allowed in exploration, mining, mineral processing and metallurgy under the automatic route for all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals including diamonds and precious stones.

(b) & (c) Mineral concessions are granted by the respective State Governments, who are the owners of minerals in their respective territorial jurisdiction to an Indian national or a company registered in India, under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. For minerals specified in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, prior approval of Central Government is necessary for granting mineral concessions. The details of mineral concession proposals including cases of Reconnaissance Permits (RP) and Prospecting License (PL) on which prior approval of Ministry of Mines has been conveyed for the last three years are available on the website of Ministry of Mines viz. http://mines.nic.in.